



Growing Together Growing Together

Daffodil & Hosta Society of Western Pennsylvania

DECEMBER 2019

Hi Everyone,

Another year is coming to an end! Hard to believe it!

Looking back: we had 2 wonderful shows this year, many plant sales, multiple speakers, day trips and special breakfasts.

We already have next year's schedule done, for the most part. Make sure you check it out and save some dates for us. There are two still pending events, but we will keep you informed as they develop.

As the weather turns glum many of us are looking forward to a restful time. We have a number of fun events planned to keep your winters full of fun.

First on the list is our Annual Friends Lunch at Sarafino's—Saturday, January 4—now in its 15th year. If you have not called the Altmans, do so now as we need to let the restaurant know how many are coming—see detail next page.

I hope to see you all at the friend's lunch at the beginning of January to toast in to the New Year with us.

Happy Holidays
Megan Danik
The Prez

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**Saturday, January
4th at noon**

15th Annual Winter Friends Lunch

**Wow! I can't believe a new year will start in a few days!
And can you believe it is time for our Winter FRIENDS
LUNCHEON???**

**I (Herbie) spoke with Joe at Sarafino's and he is happy to
have our friends back again.**

WHEN: January 4th, 2020

TIME: 12:00 until 3:30 pm

Most people do arrive at 11:30am

RSVP by December 28 2019

WHERE: Sarafino's

40 E Crafton Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15205

Phone: 412-922-8911

Note: BYOB and Dutch treat

Space is limited to about 30 friends.

Separate checks

**If you are interested in Friends/Lunch at Serafino's give
Herbie a call or send him an e-mail on or before January
1.**

E-mail: john@thealtmans.net

Cell: 724-944-4406

Home: 724-946-3328

Joan's cell 724-971-9998

Join us for fine friends and fine food.

**Sarafino's is not open until 4:00. Saturdays. They will
open special for our friends. We will have the restaurant
to ourselves.**

**Sarafino's menu combines classic Italian dishes with
family-restaurant prices -- none of the sandwiches,
salads and pasta dishes are more than \$12.
<http://www.sarafinos.com/Site/Menu.html>**

**In short, Sarafino's is the kind of place where both the
down-home atmosphere and the food make it worth the
journey.**

**We are interested in your ideas for 2021. Tell us about
your favorite restaurant so we can check it out.**

HAPPY HOLIDAYS



IN MEMORIUM AL DEURBROUCK 1932-2019



The Allegheny Chapter and NARGS lost a stalwart member and supporter when Al Deurbrouck passed away on Tuesday, November 26, 2019.

Al was an avid rock gardener and his home near Pittsburgh showed this effort in myriad beds, troughs and specimen plants. His gardening expertise showed in the numerous awards he won at the annual show sponsored by the chapter. Many of these plants were grown from seed and Al certainly followed the adage "Who plants a seed beneath the sod, and awaits the plant to grow, believes in God"

Al was definitely a Grey Eminence in the chapter having served as chapter chair, chapter awards chair, show chair and editor of the local newsletter. On the national level, he chaired the advertising committee and as chair of the committee when the

chapter hosted 2 nationals and 2 winter studies, He always taught newcomers the marvelous quote by Elizabeth Lawrence, first woman landscape architect in America that "All gardeners become rock gardeners because gardening is an art and rock gardening is the purest form of that art!" His personal rock garden and troughs demonstrated this art. In addition, he bred a wonderful rock garden daylily which was named "Little Bird" - a daylily on 6 inches tall and still the only one of this type registered by the American Daylily Society.

Al was also active in other garden societies including The West Mifflin Men's Garden Club and the Daffodil and Hosta Society of W PA. One of his favorite iris cultivars was "Tiger Honey"- A broken pattern orange and white! Professionally, Al was a coal prep engineer and received many awards in that profession. He is survived by his wife, Nancy, 2 daughters, 7 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.

As published in Pittsburgh Post-Gazette from Nov. 29 to Dec. 1, 2019



Age 87, of South Park, passed away early on November 26, 2019. Al is survived by his loving wife of 58 years, Nancy; daughters, Lori Lubic (Bruce) and Jodi Deurbrouck; grandchildren, Dylan Rohar (Anna), Madalyn Dodd (Brandon), Jocelyn Escoto (Gabe), Justin, Jake, Cody, and Owen; great-grandchildren, Calvin and Maddox. He was an [Army](#) veteran of the [Korean War](#). Al loved nothing more than spending time with his grandchildren. Throughout his life, Al was an avid gardener, transforming his entire yard into a picturesque rock garden and also taking an active role in the North American Rock Garden Society, where he once served as President. Al enjoyed a long career working

as a Mining Engineer, specializing in coal preparation at the Bureau of Mines, where he had the opportunity to travel the world, visiting over 20 countries. Al was a founding member of the Coal Preparation Society of America, was awarded the President's Award for his service in 2014, and named "Mr. Coal Prep" by Coal Age Magazine. Al's other hobbies included fishing, bowling and volunteering with Meals on Wheels. Al was a role model and inspiration to not only his family, but every person he met. A truly remarkable human being. A memorial service for his friends and family was held Saturday, November 30th at 10:00 a.m. at Windover Hills United Methodist Church, 6751 Ridge Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15236. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to [the Salvation Army](#).

THE BREAKFAST CLUB

Several DHSWP members enjoyed breakfast together in October and November. Stephen Peskor gave a presentation on October 23rd about some of his favorite garden tools. It was interesting and helpful.

Stephen is an Allegheny County Penn State Master Gardener and Pennsylvania Certified Horticulturalist. He is a retired nuclear research chemist with a B.S., M.S. and doctoral studies in chemistry. Following Stephen's talk, members did a Show & Tell of their own favorites. Jim Ellenberger showed us a tool he invented and I think he inspired us to use our imagination



November 19th was the date for our next Breakfast series. This time Tim Choltco gave a Power Point presentation on Native Orchids. It was very informative and left us all eager for spring so we can walk some trails and maybe find some to identify. Tim has been growing orchids for 37 years. He has been a member of the Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania for 37 years and is the current co-vice president. He has a degree in biology/plant science from Penn State University. Tim has published many new orchid species. Other interests include the Arum family (with emphasis on garden hardy varieties), Hosta, Daylily, and Trillium.

The Breakfast Club gatherings are off-calendar events organized by various DHSWP members. ANYONE can host. Notices of the event can be sent to Megan Danik and an email as well as a Facebook Event can be shared with the general membership. Members pay for their own meals. The purpose of the get togethers is to encourage comradery and knowledge, and of course to EAT.

The State of the Hoop House

October 14th sent high winds to the hoop house which ripped the plastic off.

The plastic was due to be replaced anyhow and fortunately we already had the replacement plastic on hand. On October 15th, Keith Portka, Margie Elliott, Jim Kalka, and Gary and Susan Gahagan accomplished the task.

On November 19th, following the Breakfast Club and Orchids gatherings, the same group of workers returned to the Hoop House to “put the hostas to bed”.



Past years have resulted in unacceptable overwintering losses so after much research and appreciated advice, this year we are NOT overwintering in the hoop house. The hostas were given a watering with a castor oil concoction to keep the critters away and then covered with pine straw and bordered with leaves. The hostas will be returned to the hoop house in March to encourage early sprouting. Our goal is to have zero loss.



2020 Daffodil & Hosta Society of W PA Bus Trip

July 27, 28 and 29, 2020

4 Star Greenhouse –Carleton, MI

Horrocks Greenhouse – Kentwood, MI

Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park – Grand Rapids, MI

Mast Greenhouse – Grand Rapids, MI

Walters Gardens – Zeeland, MI

Chapmans Garden Center – Battlecreek, MI

Raker-Roberta’s Young Plants – Litchfield, MI

Mark your calendar, more information will be coming soon.

DHSWP 2020 SCHRDULE

When	Time	What	Where	Website
January 4	12:00	15th Annual Friend's Lunch	Sarafino's	Sarafino's
February 8	12:00	Soup Luncheon	Town Hall Indiana Township	Indiana Township
February 1	1:00	SC Meeting	Northland Public Library	Northland Public Library
March 7	12:00	Annual Meeting		
March 12-15		National Daffodil Convention	Dallas Texas	2020 Daffodil Convention
March 20-21		Hosta College	Piqua, Ohio	
April ?		Daffodil Show		
April 4	1:00	SC Meeting	Northland Public Library	Northland Public Library
May 15-16		Indiana Garden Club Sale		
May 16th		Armstrong County Master Gardener sale		
June 6		Hosta Show	Soergel's Orchards	Soergel's
June 10-13		Hosta National Convention	Brooklyn Park, MN	2020 AHS Convention
June 20-21		Whispering Pines	Whispering Pines Farms	Whispering Pines
July 18	11:00	Picnic	DJ's	DJ's Greenhouse
July 27-26		Bus Trip		
September 18-19		Fall Hosta Forum		
October 17	1:00	Regular Meeting	Northland Public Library	Northland Public Library
November 7	12:00	End of Season Banquet		
November 14	1:00	SC Meeting	Northland Public Library	Northland Public Library
December 12	1:00	Regular Meeting	Northland Public Library	Northland Public Library

	Steering Committee Meetings
	Regular Meetings
	Conventions
	Plant Sales
	Shows
	Special Events